

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend page 22, lines 27-32 of the specification as follows:

1.2. Genome comparisons and primer design

For preliminary genome comparisons between *M tuberculosis* and *M bovis* websites [<http://genolist.pasteur.fr/TubercuList/>] and [[http://www.sanger.ac.uk/Projects/M bovis/](http://www.sanger.ac.uk/Projects/M_bovis/)] as well as inhouse databases were used. For primer design, sequences inside or flanking RD and RvD regions were obtained from the same websites. Primers were designed using the primer 3 website [[http://www-genome.wi.mit.edu/cgi-bin/primer/primer3 www.cgi](http://www-genome.wi.mit.edu/cgi-bin/primer/primer3.cgi)] that would amplify ca. 500 base pair fragments in the reference strains (Table 1).